

## 2014 December *Guess that Plant*



*Polygonum cespitosum* Blume var. *longisetum* (Bruijn) A.N. Steward, Oriental lady's thumb

The December *Guess that Plant* was the non-native Oriental lady's thumb. The clue to its identity is the narrow width of the flowering raceme and the long size of the ocreae bristles. The species is a native to the Asia yet the species has been a part of New Jersey's flora for generations. It exists in gardens and roadsides where there is sufficient moisture and light.

Mary Hough's *Wild Plants of New Jersey* (1983) curiously identified its existence only in the Northern Counties of Somerset, Morris, Hunterdon and Passaic. Today, we know it exists in all Southern New Jersey counties as well as those that border the Hudson River. This species is common wherever there is disturbance in urban and suburban landscapes and it can it predictable in rural road side ditches as well. This non-native is now entrenched in our landscape and is a naturalized part of New Jersey's flora.

JRA 1/2015